

Isolation and characterization of 25 polymorphic microsatellites of the large Japanese wood mouse (*Apodemus speciosus*)

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Received: 25 April 2013 / Accepted: 6 May 2013 / Published online: 17 May 2013
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Abstract The large Japanese wood mouse (*Apodemus speciosus*) is common, but endemic to Japan, and its population structure was affected by habitat fragmentation because of urbanization. It suggested that the species might be one of the important models for the conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity affected by humans, including the effect of radioactive discharge caused by nuclear power plant accidents at Fukushima. We developed and characterized 25 novel polymorphic microsatellite markers from the next-generation sequencing data in an effort to provide an effective tool for genetic studies on this species. In 8 individuals from Aomori, Japan, the number of alleles and expected heterozygosities ranged from 5 to 13 and from 0.795 to 0.991, respectively, suggesting the availability of these markers for genetic studies in this species.

Keywords *Apodemus speciosus* · Wood mouse · Microsatellite · NGS

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The Japanese wood mouse (*Apodemus speciosus*) is common in forests throughout Japan. Although it was categorized as Least Concern in the version 3.1 of the Red List (IUCN 2012), habitat fragmentation by urbanization has affected the genetic population structure of this species (Hirota et al. 2004). This may make certain local populations vulnerable in the near future, and the conservation problems that may arise for this species are representative of those for all other small mammals. In addition, it is an important model species for evaluating the effects of humans on wildlife. The Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident in 2011 possibly damaged ecosystems and biodiversity even in areas that were far from the power plant, and it is among the most disquieting problems in biological conservation in Japan. We started investigating the impact of the low level but continuous radiation discharge after the accident on the wildlife. The target species for the assessment includes *A. speciosus*. To evaluate the effect of irradiation on the rate of reproductive success, subsequent population stability, and unusual mutations over generations, a genetic survey should be conducted for which molecular genetic markers are indispensable.

However, reliable co-dominant genetic markers such as microsatellites have not been reported for this species. Thus, we needed to develop new microsatellite markers. A large data set of genome sequences provided by next-generation sequencing (NGS) was used to obtain a sufficient number of candidates for marker development.

Genomic DNA for NGS was extracted from frozen liver tissue of *A. speciosus* captured in Tateyama (N 36°35'N, 137°24'E), Toyama Prefecture, central Japan, in June 2012, following the standard phenol–chloroform protocol (Sambrook and Russell 2001). Approximately 200 µg of DNA were sent to Hokkaido System Science Co., Ltd. (Sapporo, Japan) and sequenced using the paired-ends sequencing

Table 1 Primer sequence, repeat motif from the original sequence, allele size, observed number of alleles, and expected and observed heterozygosities (H_E and H_O) for 25 polymorphic microsatellite loci in *Apodemus speciosus*

Name of the marker	Primer sequence	Repeat motif	Allele size	Number of alleles	H_E	H_O
AMS03	F TGTGGGATAGAGAACCATCCA R GCAGGTCACCAACTCCACAA	GT	269–295	9	0.911	1.000
AMS07	F CAATGGCTTTGGGTAGAGGA R AGCAAAGGAATTTGGAAAGAA	CA	332–354	8	0.911	0.750
AMS08	F CATTTGCACACATTTTCAGTCA R ATCATCCATTGGCAAGCTCT	CA	334–354	9	0.920	0.875
AMS12	F GACAACAGCTTGGAGGGAGT R ACCCAGCACCTCATACATGG	GT	296–331	13	0.973	1.000
AMS14	F AAACAGCACCTGGAGCCTTA R AGCCCGAACCTTTAAGCAGT	GT	265–287	9	0.911	1.000
AMS15	F CCTGCTTCTGGCTGTTCTCT R TGTTTGTGAGGGGTTTCTGC	GT	274–300	11	0.911	0.875
AMS20	F ACGTGAACAAGGCATGTGAA R ACAACGGATGCCTCAACTCT	GA	238–266	10	0.911	1.000
AMS25	F CAGTGTTTCAGAAGGCTGCAA R GCCAGCAGAGGGAACCTTAT	CA	282–298	9	0.893	0.875
AMS31	F CCCTAAGTGAACCAATTTTCATCTC R CGTTCCTAGCTCAGCTCTCA	GT	214–236	9	0.929	0.750
AMS34	F TAGGCCTGAGATGGATCCTG R TGGCTTCCATATTCACATGC	GT	184–194	5	0.795	0.875
AMS35	F CCCCATCTCCTTAGATTACAATG R CATCAACCATATTGTCTTCCTTC	CA	218–268	9	0.857	1.000
AMS37	F GATCCACTTTACAATTGCTCTGA R AGGTGCTGGGACCTAACTCT	GT	242–260	10	0.893	1.000
AMS38	F TTCTGGGCAGAAACAAGTGTA R TCTCCTTGGCTTAGTGTTTTCC	CA	213–239	11	0.955	1.000
AMS41	F AAATGCTGCTTTTATGCTGATTA R TCCTTTTGCAGCAAGACAAT	CA	254–272	6	0.830	1.000
AMS44	F CCTCCACATCTGCTCACTCA R TCACTGGAAGGCACAGAACA	CA	193–209	6	0.804	1.000
AMS46	F CAAATTGAATATAAGTCTGAGTGTGT R CTGAAGATGACCTTTGGCTTC	GT	251–275	9	0.929	1.000
AMS49	F GCAGGTAAAGTTACTCCCTTGG R TTGGACTCAAGCTATACCACACA	GT	250–290	13	0.964	1.000
AMS50	F CGATGTGTTCTCTAGTCTCAAAAGA R CTGGGTGCTTCAGAGTTTTGG	CA	308–348	9	0.893	1.000
AMS51	F TCAAGTTCTAACCGTCTATCCTGA R TCACAGCAATCAGAGCGAGT	CT	216–254	11	0.946	1.000
AMS52	F ATTCCCAGCATCAACCTCTG R CTACCCTGGGTTGCCAAAGT	CA	213–257	13	0.991	0.750
AMS58	F TGACATGGTGACAACTGCTT R TCTCCATTCTTACTTCATAGCA	CA	272–290	9	0.920	0.875
AMS59	F CGAGAGACTAAAGTAATGCCAACA R CTTTACAATGAACTGAATCTGAGAAC	CA	324–360	10	0.902	0.750
AMS60	F GCAATGTCGTATGAGACAGTGAAT R GACCTTTGGCAGCTATGTGG	GT	292–318	10	0.911	1.000
AMS66	F GGAGAACTAAGACATTCCATGA R GAGCAGTTTTTGTGATTCTTGTT	CA	230–258	7	0.821	0.875
AMS69	F ACCTAGGGCTATATAATGAAATCAAA R GGAAGATGCAGACAGGATCG	GT	224–254	10	0.946	1.000

protocol on Illumina Hiseq 2000 (Illumina). We received 1,500,000 selected sequences that were candidates for designing microsatellite markers containing more than 9 repeats of CA, GA, or GAA (or their complements, GT, CT, or CTT). We checked approximately 1,000 sequences, selected 60 of them, and designed primer sets for these sequences by using Primer 3 (Rozen and Skaletsky 2000).

To optimize the utility of the new markers, we chose samples from a locality other than Toyama for PCR tests. Genomic DNA in 8 *A. speciosus* collected from Towada (40°35'N, 140°57'E), Aomori Prefecture, northern Japan, in September 2012, was extracted with DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit (Qiagen) from ethanol-fixed liver samples. To check the availability of 60 candidate primer pairs, PCR was carried out using TaKaRa ExTaq Hot start version (TaKaRa) in a total volume of 15 µL following the manufacturer's instructions. The thermal profile included pre-cycling denaturation at 95 °C for 5 min, followed by 35 cycles of denaturation at 95 °C for 30 s, annealing at 58 °C for 90 s and extension at 72 °C for 30 s, and post-cycling extension at 72 °C for 10 min. PCR products were roughly sized on agarose electrophoresis. Thirty-four primer sets that were amplified in all 8 samples and that showed length polymorphism were selected, and the forward primer of each set was fluorescently labeled using 6-FAM, VIC, NED, or PET. Fluorescent PCR was carried out in the same manner as specified previously in the text, except that the final extension step was performed for 30 min so that adenine is added at the end of all the products. The PCR products were electrophoresed using size marker 500 LIZ (Applied Biosystems) on ABI 3130xl (Applied Biosystems), and the product sizes were estimated using Gene Mapper software (Applied Biosystems). The number of alleles and observed and expected heterozygosities were calculated using Genepop on the Web (Raymond and Rousset 1995; Rousset 2008), and deviations from Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium (HWE) and linkage disequilibrium were tested using the same website.

After the primer pairs showing multiloci or difficult genotyping with stutter peaks were eliminated, 25 pairs

were found to be well scored (Table 1). The fragment lengths, allele numbers, and expected and observed heterozygosities showed ranges of 184–360, 5–13, and 0.795–0.991 and 0.750–1.000, respectively. No significant linkage disequilibrium or deviation from HWE was detected, suggesting that all the markers are available for genetic analyses in *A. speciosus*. We plan to investigate the population genetics of this species to evaluate the effects of humans on wild mammals.

Acknowledgments The authors wish to thank Akira Yasuda, Hiroaki Ishida, Akitsu Miyamoto, and Shiho Arai of the Laboratory of Wildlife Conservation, Graduate School of Science and Engineering, University of Toyama for their valuable assistance in animal capture. The present study was financially supported by the project “Study on dynamics of radioactive materials in multimedia environment” commissioned by the Ministry of the Environment Japan.

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